MARVEL
DOCTOR STRANGE
MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS
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THE WINDS WHIP EAST OUT OF MANHATTAN THIS SATURDAY MORNING... AND WITH THEM FLIES DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE, BORNE ALOFT BY HIS ENCHANTED CLOAK OF LEVITATION!
Stan Lee PRESENTS:
The Chosen One
ROGER STERN-WRITER PAUL SMITH-ARTIST
TERRY AUSTIN-INKER
JIM NOVAK-LETTERER BOB SHAREN-COLORIST
CARL POTTS-EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER-EDITOR SUPREME
A SPELL OF DECEPTION HIDES HIM FROM THOSE ON THE GROUND FAR BELOW, AS MUCH TO KEEP FROM STARTLING MOTORISTS ON THE LONG ISLAND EXPRESSWAY AS TO PRESERVE THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS MAN...
...WHO HAS BECOME A MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D COME BACK TO THIS PLACE. IT'S BEEN ...YEARS SINCE I WAS LAST HERE. I WAS A DIFFERENT MAN THEN.
I DOUBT I WOULD EVER HAVE RETURNED, WERE IT NOT NECESSARY TO MY MISSION. IT'S QUITE BIZARRE WHEN ONE CONSIDERS HOW THIS ALL BEGAN...

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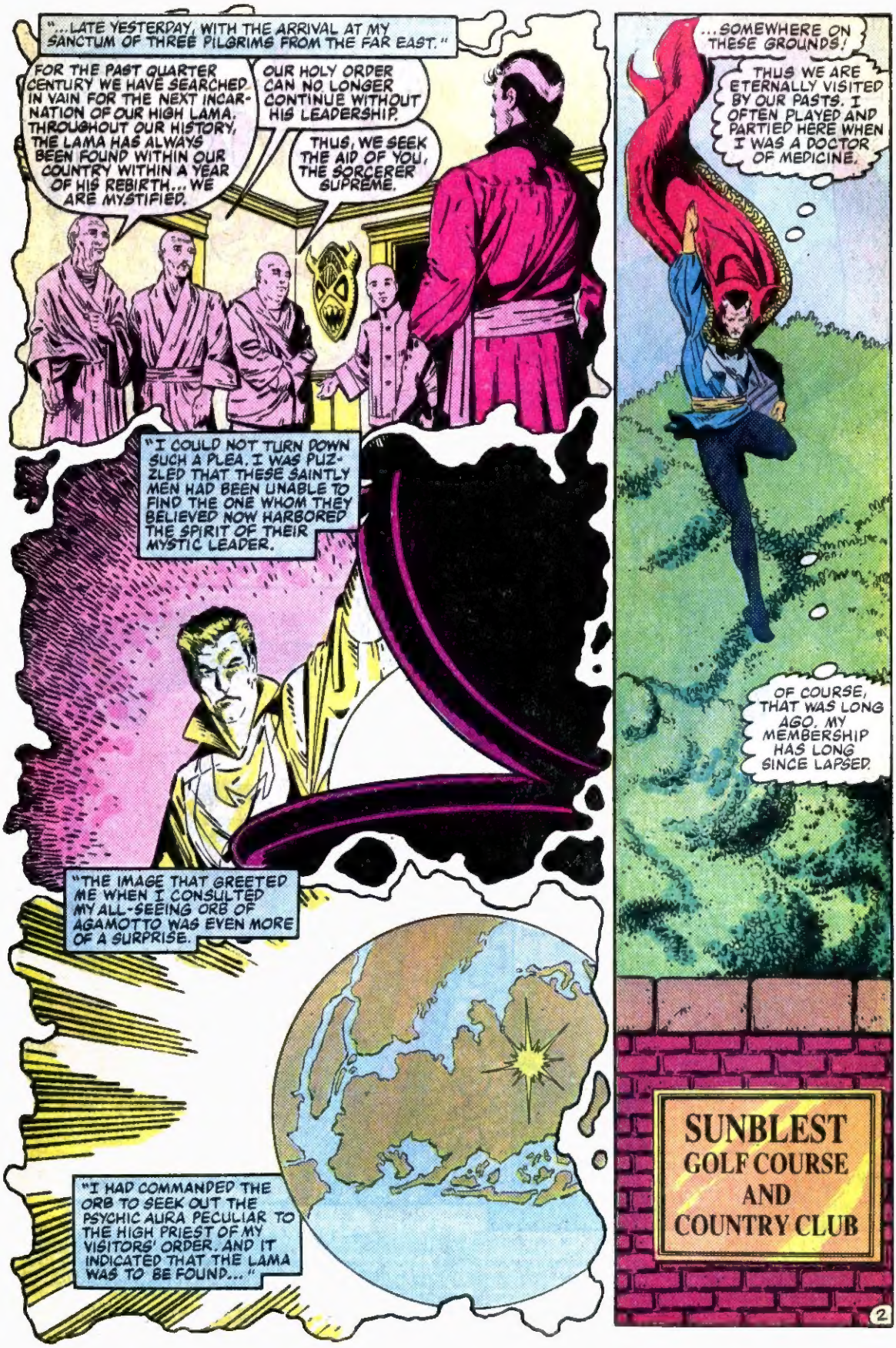
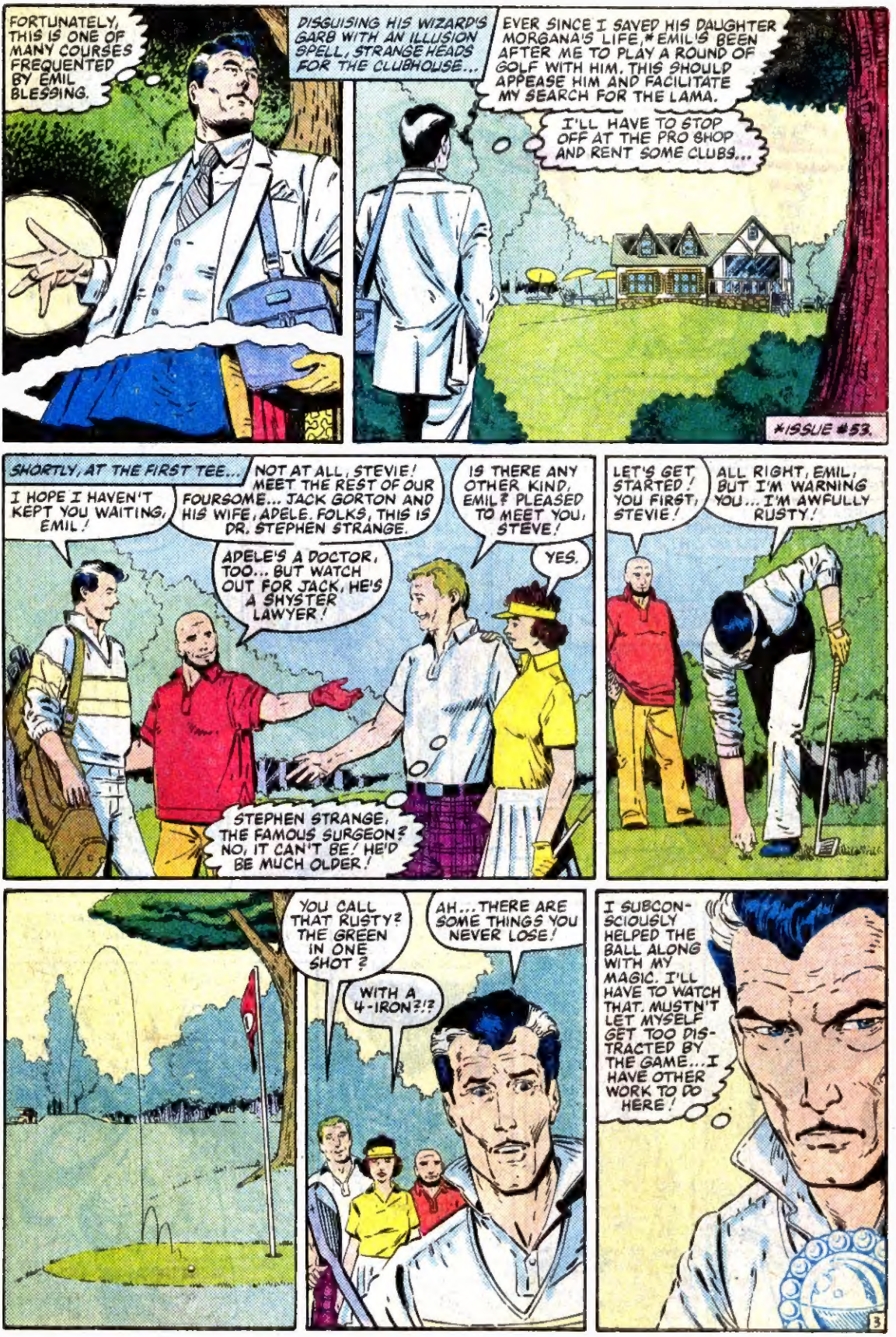
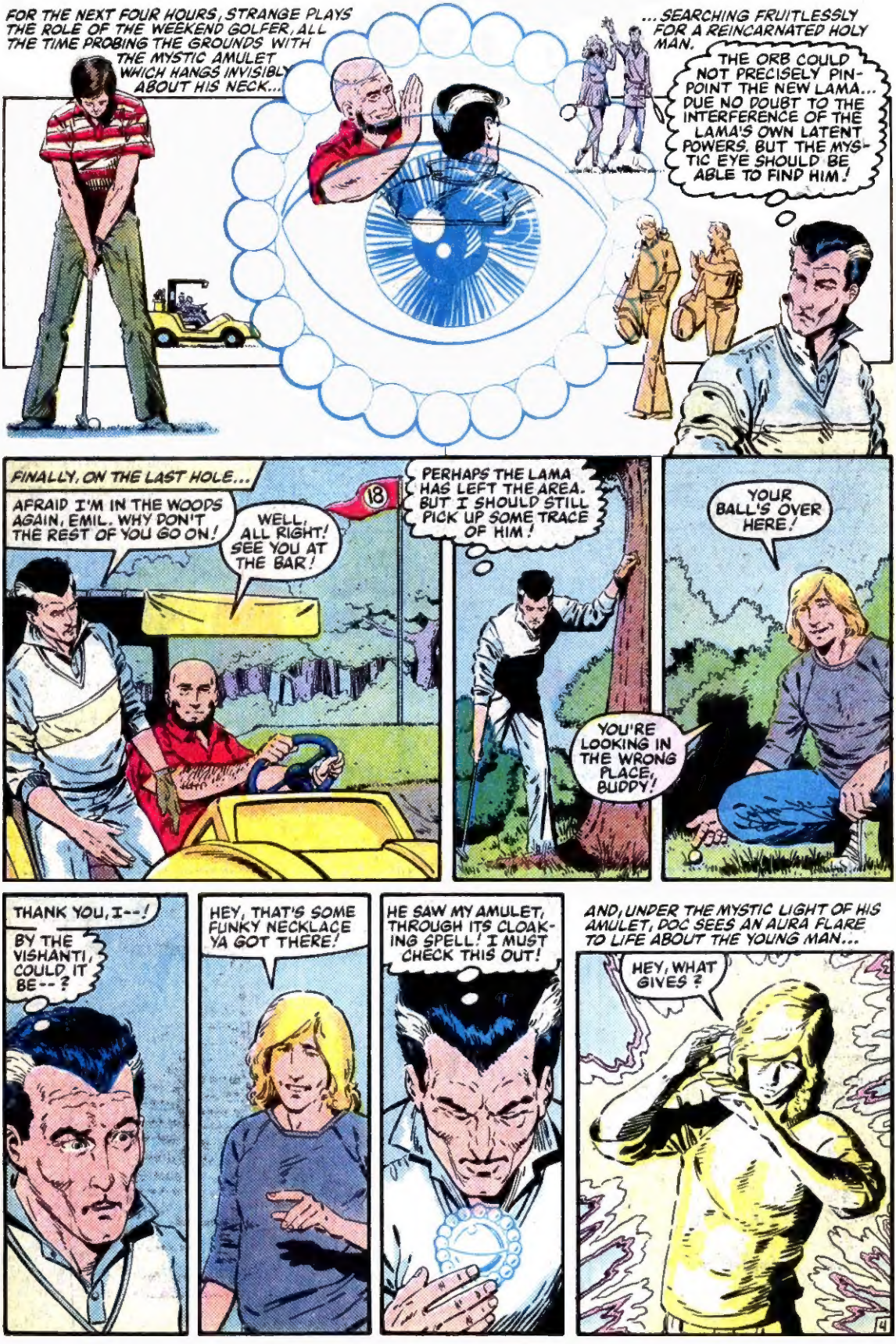
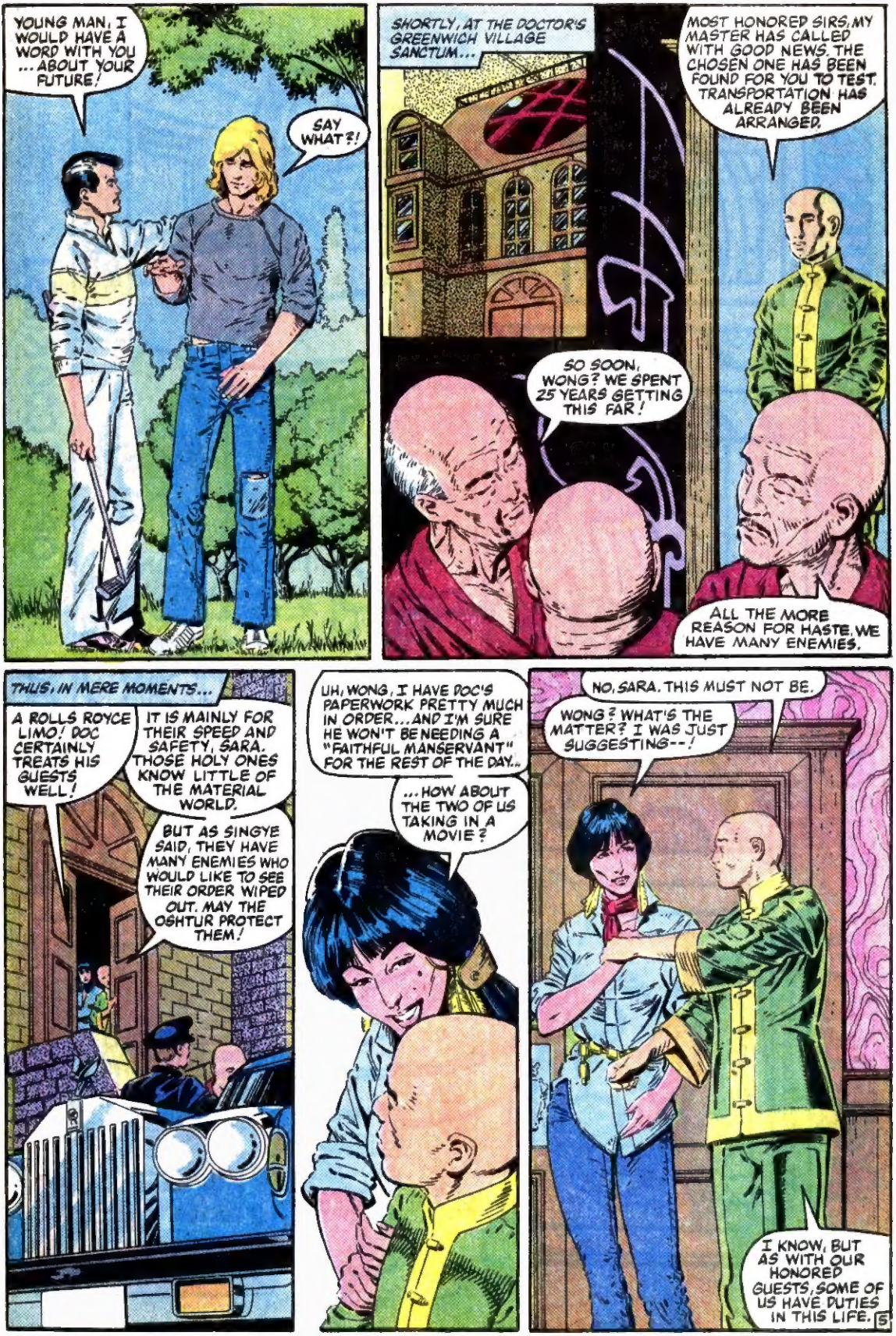
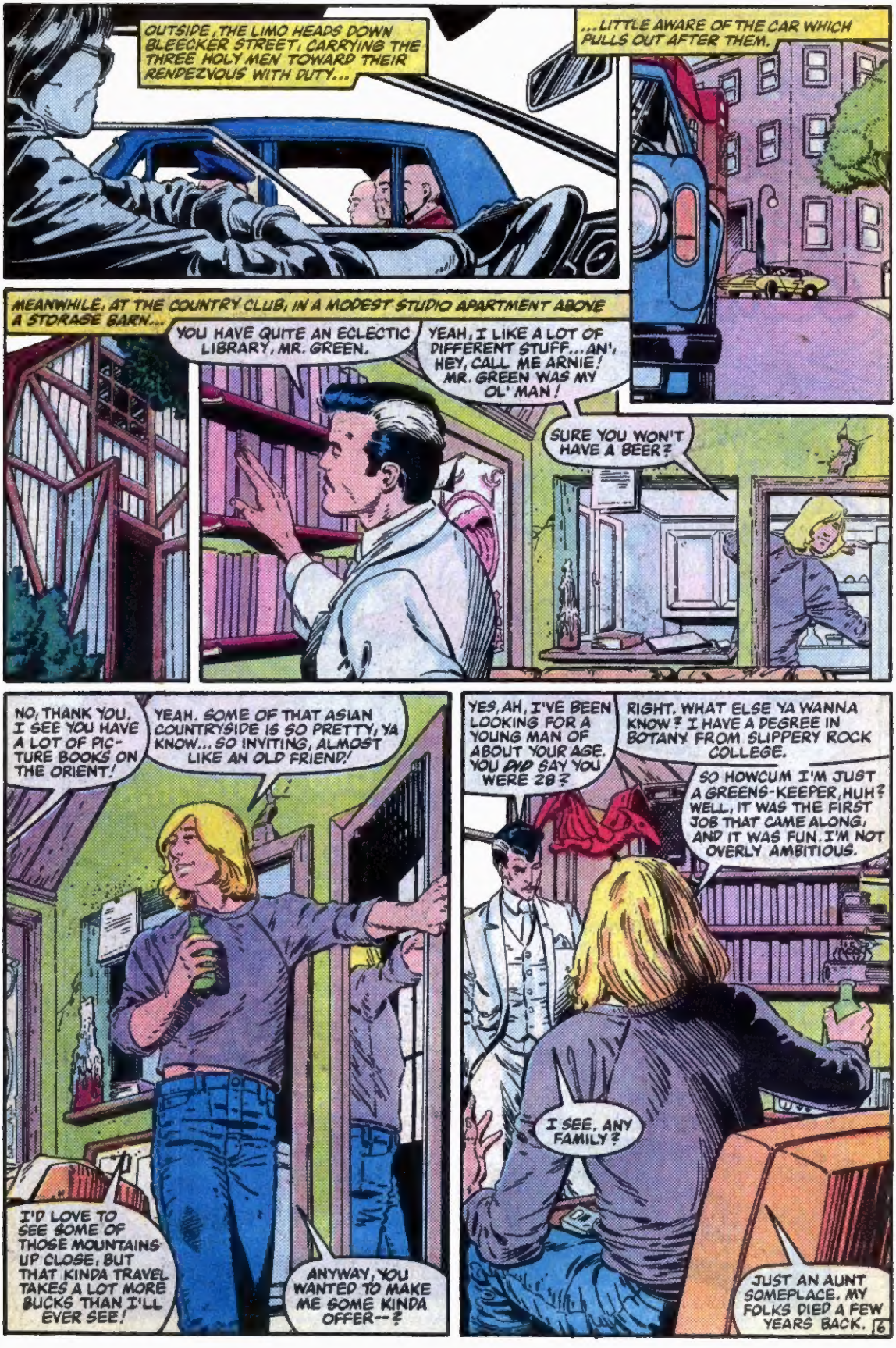

"...LATE YESTERDAY, WITH THE ARRIVAL AT MY SANCTUM OF THREE PILGRIMS FROM THE FAR EAST."
FOR THE PAST QUARTER CENTURY WE HAVE SEARCHED IN VAIN FOR THE NEXT INCARNATION OF OUR HIGH LAMA. THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY, THE LAMA HAS ALWAYS BEEN FOUND WITHIN OUR COUNTRY WITHIN A YEAR OF HIS REBIRTH... WE ARE MYSTIFIED.
OUR HOLY ORDER CAN NO LONGER CONTINUE WITHOUT HIS LEADERSHIP.
THUS, WE SEEK THE AID OF YOU, THE SORCERER SUPREME.
"I COULD NOT TURN DOWN SUCH A PLEA. I WAS PUZZLED THAT THESE SAINTLY MEN HAD BEEN UNABLE TO FIND THE ONE WHOM THEY BELIEVED NOW HARBORED THE SPIRIT OF THEIR MYSTIC LEADER.
"THE IMAGE THAT GREETED ME WHEN I CONSULTED MY ALL-SEEING ORB OF AGAMOTTO WAS EVEN MORE OF A SURPRISE.
"I HAD COMMANDED THE ORB TO SEEK OUT THE PSYCHIC AURA PECULIAR TO THE HIGH PRIEST OF MY VISITORS' ORDER. AND IT INDICATED THAT THE LAMA WAS TO BE FOUND..."
...SOMEWHERE ON THESE GROUNDS!
THUS WE ARE ETERNALLY VISITED BY OUR PASTS. I OFTEN PLAYED AND PARTIED HERE WHEN I WAS A DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.
OF COURSE, THAT WAS LONG AGO. MY MEMBERSHIP HAS LONG SINCE LAPSED.
SUNBLEST
GOLF COURSE
AND
COUNTRY CLUB
2

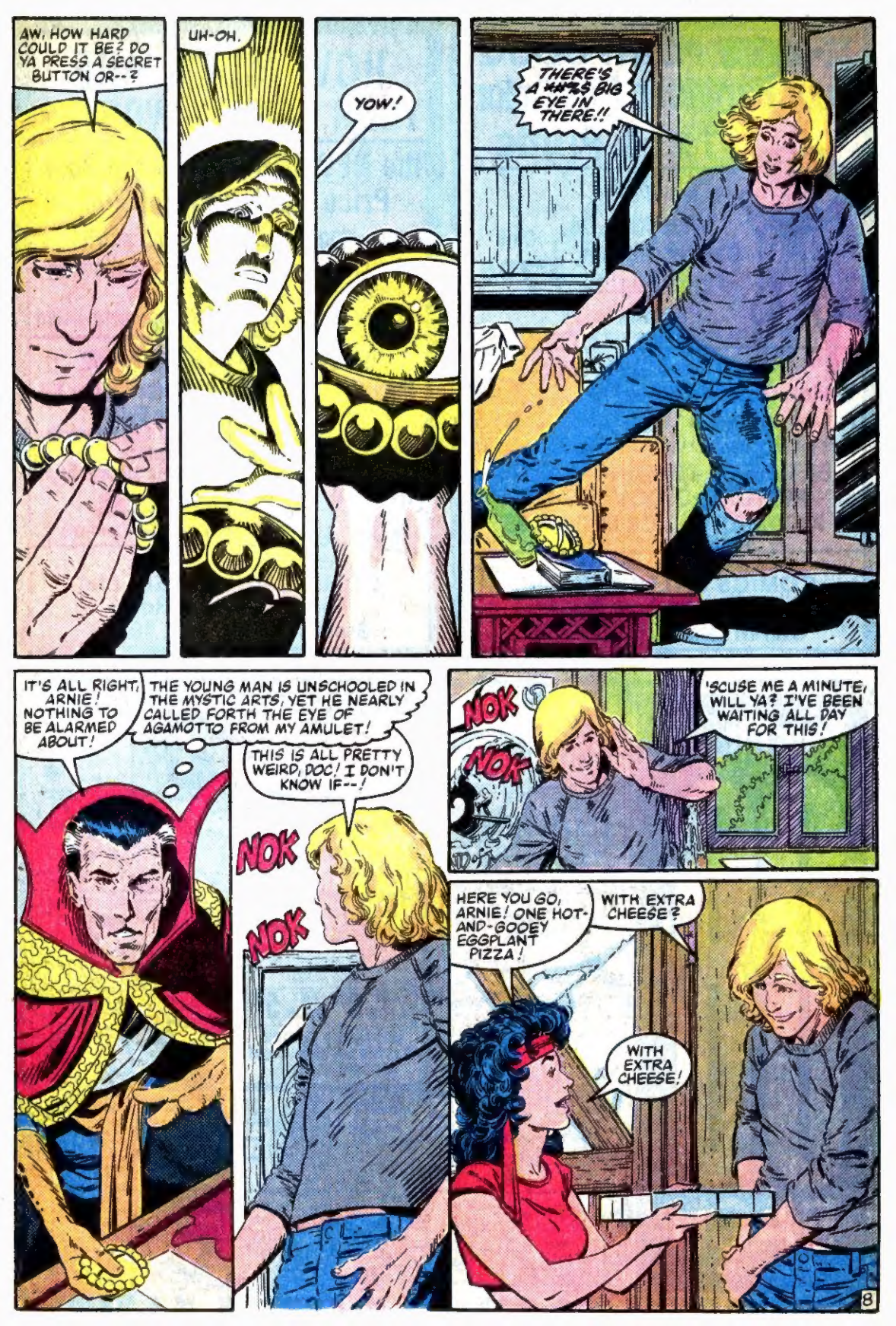

FORTUNATELY, THIS IS ONE OF MANY COURSES FREQUENTED BY EMIL BLESSING.
DISGUISING HIS WIZARD'S GARB WITH AN ILLUSION SPELL, STRANGE HEADS FOR THE CLUBHOUSE...
EVER SINCE I SAVED HIS DAUGHTER MORGANA'S LIFE,* EMIL'S BEEN AFTER ME TO PLAY A ROUND OF GOLF WITH HIM. THIS SHOULD APPEASE HIM AND FACILITATE MY SEARCH FOR THE LAMA.
I'LL HAVE TO STOP OFF AT THE PRO SHOP AND RENT SOME CLUBS...
*ISSUE #53.
SHORTLY, AT THE FIRST TEE...
I HOPE I HAVEN'T KEPT YOU WAITING, EMIL!
NOT AT ALL, STEVIE! MEET THE REST OF OUR FOURSOME... JACK GORTON AND HIS WIFE, ADELE. FOLKS, THIS IS DR. STEPHEN STRANGE.
IS THERE ANY OTHER KIND, EMIL? PLEASED TO MEET YOU, STEVE!
YES.
ADELE'S A DOCTOR, TOO... BUT WATCH OUT FOR JACK, HE'S A SHYSTER LAWYER!
STEPHEN STRANGE, THE FAMOUS SURGEON? NO, IT CAN'T BE! HE'D BE MUCH OLDER!
LET'S GET STARTED! YOU FIRST, STEVIE!
ALL RIGHT, EMIL, BUT I'M WARNING YOU... I'M AWFULLY RUSTY!
YOU CALL THAT RUSTY? THE GREEN IN ONE SHOT?
WITH A 4-IRON?!?
AH... THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU NEVER LOSE!
I SUBCONSCIOUSLY HELPED THE BALL ALONG WITH MY MAGIC. I'LL HAVE TO WATCH THAT. MUSTN'T LET MYSELF GET TOO DISTRACTED BY THE GAME... I HAVE OTHER WORK TO DO HERE!
3


FOR THE NEXT FOUR HOURS, STRANGE PLAYS THE ROLE OF THE WEEKEND GOLFER, ALL THE TIME PROBING THE GROUNDS WITH THE MYSTIC AMULET WHICH HANGS INVISIBLY ABOUT HIS NECK...
...SEARCHING FRUITLESSLY FOR A REINCARNATED HOLY MAN.
THE ORB COULD NOT PRECISELY PINPOINT THE NEW LAMA... DUE NO DOUBT TO THE INTERFERENCE OF THE LAMA'S OWN LATENT POWERS. BUT THE MYSTIC EYE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND HIM!
FINALLY, ON THE LAST HOLE...
AFRAID I'M IN THE WOODS AGAIN, EMIL. WHY DON'T THE REST OF YOU GO ON!
WELL, ALL RIGHT! SEE YOU AT THE BAR!
18
PERHAPS THE LAMA HAS LEFT THE AREA. BUT I SHOULD STILL PICK UP SOME TRACE OF HIM!
YOU'RE LOOKING IN THE WRONG PLACE, BUDDY!
YOUR BALL'S OVER HERE!
THANK YOU, I--!
BY THE VISHANTI, COULD IT BE--?
HEY, THAT'S SOME FUNKY NECKLACE YA GOT THERE!
HE SAW MY AMULET, THROUGH ITS CLOAKING SPELL! I MUST CHECK THIS OUT!
AND, UNDER THE MYSTIC LIGHT OF HIS AMULET, DOC SEES AN AURA FLARE TO LIFE ABOUT THE YOUNG MAN...
HEY, WHAT GIVES?
4

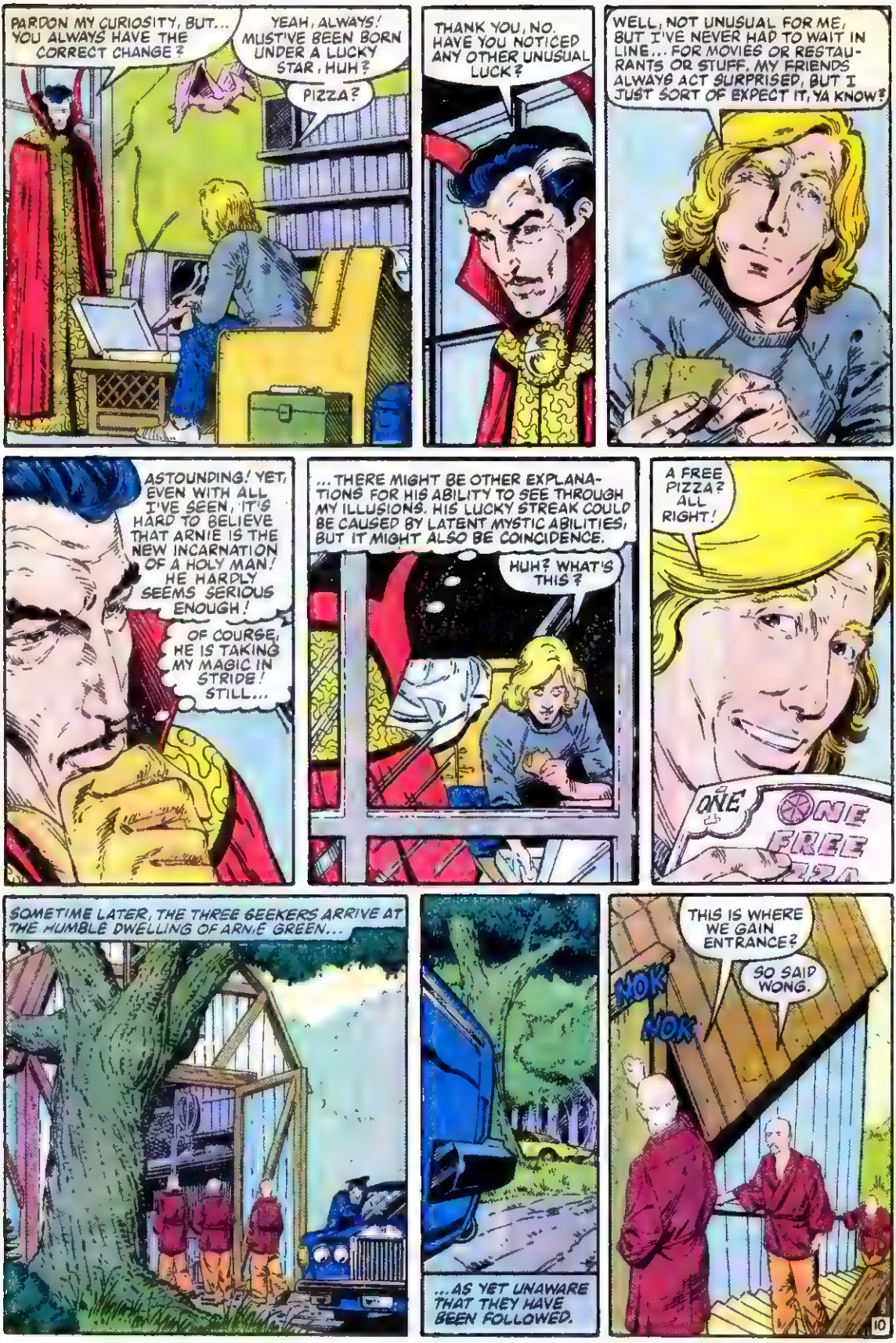

YOUNG MAN, I WOULD HAVE A WORD WITH YOU ... ABOUT YOUR FUTURE!
SAY WHAT?!
SHORTLY, AT THE DOCTOR'S GREENWICH VILLAGE SANCTUM...
MOST HONORED SIRS, MY MASTER HAS CALLED WITH GOOD NEWS. THE CHOSEN ONE HAS BEEN FOUND FOR YOU TO TEST. TRANSPORTATION HAS ALREADY BEEN ARRANGED.
SO SOON, WONG? WE SPENT 25 YEARS GETTING THIS FAR!
ALL THE MORE REASON FOR HASTE. WE HAVE MANY ENEMIES.
THUS, IN MERE MOMENTS...
A ROLLS ROYCE LIMO! DOC CERTAINLY TREATS HIS GUESTS WELL!
IT IS MAINLY FOR THEIR SPEED AND SAFETY, SARA. THOSE HOLY ONES KNOW LITTLE OF THE MATERIAL WORLD.
BUT AS SINGYE SAID, THEY HAVE MANY ENEMIES WHO WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEIR ORDER WIPED OUT. MAY THE OSHTUR PROTECT THEM!
UH, WONG, I HAVE DOC'S PAPERWORK PRETTY MUCH IN ORDER... AND I'M SURE HE WON'T BE NEEDING A "FAITHFUL MANSERVANT" FOR THE REST OF THE DAY..
... HOW ABOUT THE TWO OF US TAKING IN A MOVIE?
NO, SARA. THIS MUST NOT BE.
WONG? WHAT'S THE MATTER? I WAS JUST SUGGESTING--!
I KNOW, BUT AS WITH OUR HONORED GUESTS, SOME OF US HAVE DUTIES IN THIS LIFE.
5

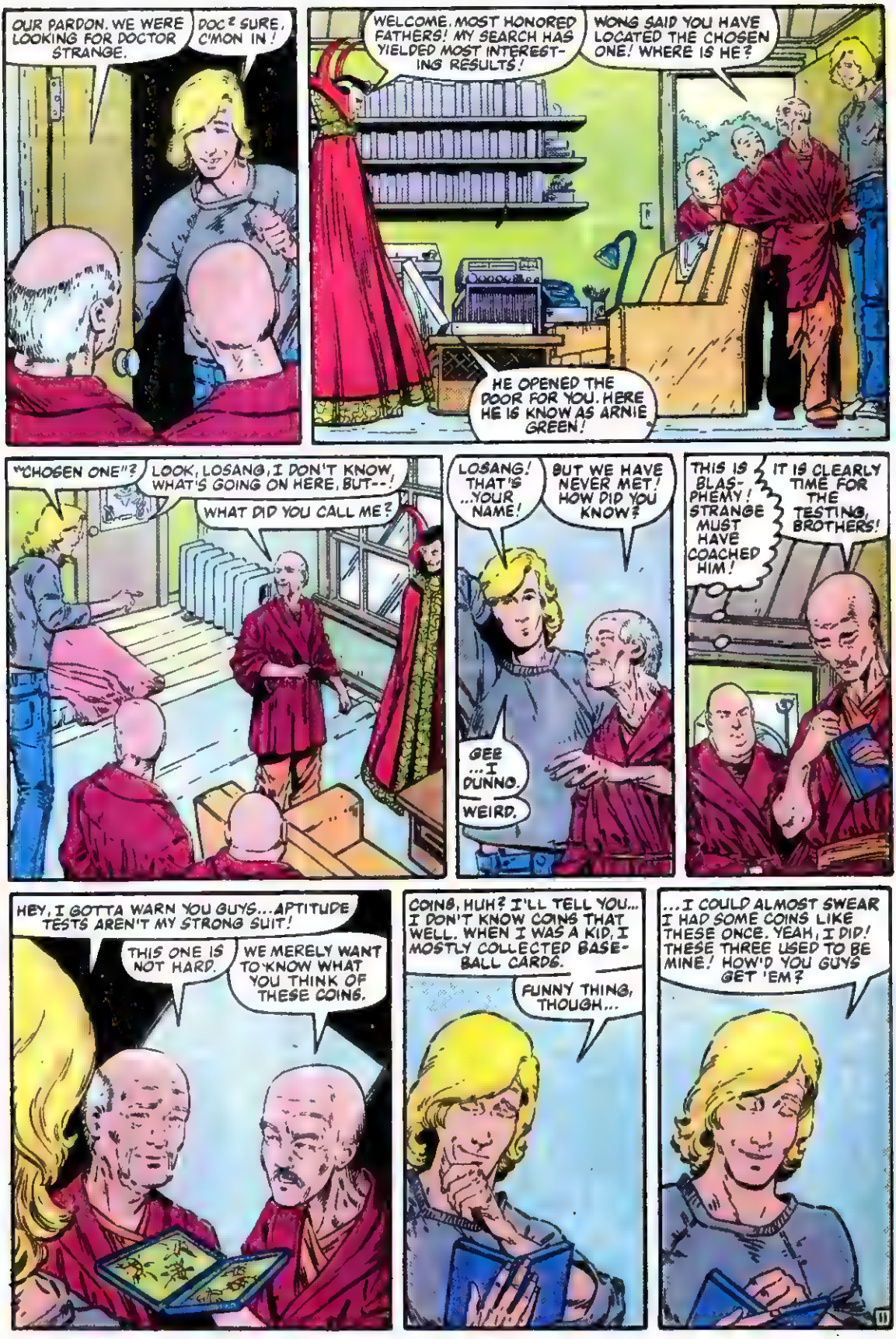

OUTSIDE, THE LIMO HEADS DOWN BLEECKER STREET, CARRYING THE THREE HOLY MEN TOWARD THEIR RENDEZVOUS WITH DUTY...
...LITTLE AWARE OF THE CAR WHICH PULLS OUT AFTER THEM.
MEANWHILE, AT THE COUNTRY CLUB, IN A MODEST STUDIO APARTMENT ABOVE A STORAGE BARN...
YOU HAVE QUITE AN ECLECTIC LIBRARY, MR. GREEN.
YEAH, I LIKE A LOT OF DIFFERENT STUFF... AN', HEY, CALL ME ARNIE! MR. GREEN WAS MY OL' MAN!
SURE YOU WON'T HAVE A BEER?
NO, THANK YOU. I SEE YOU HAVE A LOT OF PICTURE BOOKS ON THE ORIENT!
YEAH. SOME OF THAT ASIAN COUNTRYSIDE IS SO PRETTY, YA KNOW... SO INVITING, ALMOST LIKE AN OLD FRIEND!
I'D LOVE TO SEE SOME OF THOSE MOUNTAINS UP CLOSE, BUT THAT KINDA TRAVEL TAKES A LOT MORE BUCKS THAN I'LL EVER SEE!
ANYWAY, YOU WANTED TO MAKE ME SOME KINDA OFFER--?
YES, AH, I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A YOUNG MAN OF ABOUT YOUR AGE. YOU DID SAY YOU WERE 28?
RIGHT. WHAT ELSE YA WANNA KNOW? I HAVE A DEGREE IN BOTANY FROM SLIPPERY ROCK COLLEGE.
SO HOWCUM I'M JUST A GREENS-KEEPER, HUH? WELL, IT WAS THE FIRST JOB THAT CAME ALONG, AND IT WAS FUN. I'M NOT OVERLY AMBITIOUS.
I SEE. ANY FAMILY?
JUST AN AUNT SOMEPLACE. MY FOLKS DIED A FEW YEARS BACK.
6

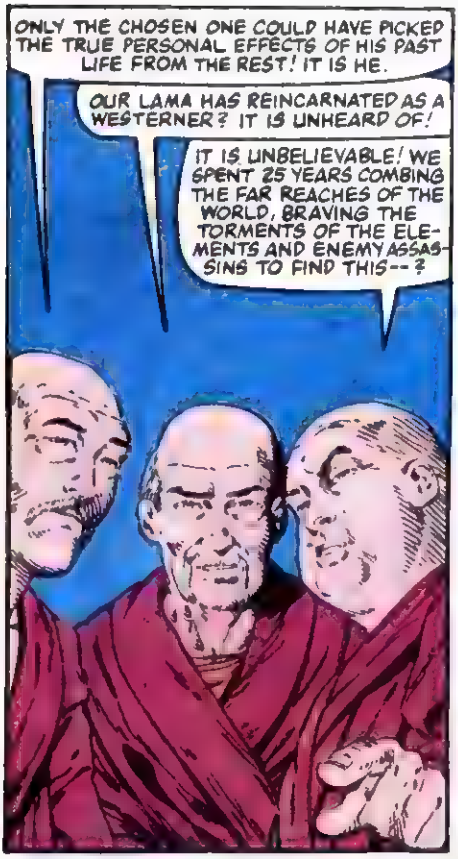
YA KNOW, MY FOLKS WERE GOOD TO ME, BUT I NEVER FELT REAL CLOSE TO 'EM! I DON'T THINK THEY EVER UNDERSTOOD ME!
UH... DOC? ABOUT THAT CRAZY SEARCHLIGHT YOU WEAR AROUND YOUR NECK--?
YES--?
IT KEEPS FADING IN AND OUT ON ME. AND WHEN I LOOK AT YOU OUTTA THE CORNER OF MY EYE, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE WEARING A CAPE OR SOMETHING!
YOU MEAN... LIKE THIS?
WHOA!
DON'T WORRY, YOU SEE ME NOW AS I REALLY AM. THE THREE-PIECE SUIT WAS... JUST A TRICK, YOU MIGHT SAY.
HEH! THAT'S A RELIEF!
UH... COULD I SEE YOUR LIGHT GIZMO?
I SUPPOSE THERE COULD BE NO HARM IN THAT.
THIS SUCKER SHINED BRIGHTER THAN A MERCURY VAPOR LAMP! HOW DO YA TURN IT ON?
I'M AFRAID A LOT OF TRAINING IS NECESSARY TO KNOW HOW TO ACTIVATE IT!
7

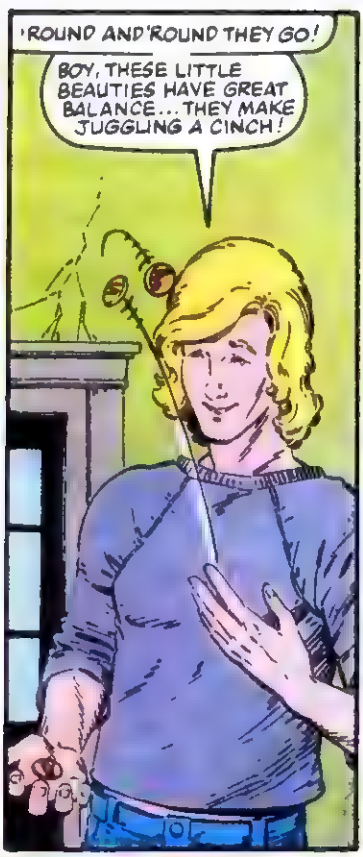

AW, HOW HARD COULD IT BE? DO YA PRESS A SECRET BUTTON OR--?
UH-OH.
YOW!
THERE'S A WHAT'S BIG EYE IN THERE!!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, ARNIE! NOTHING TO BE ALARMED ABOUT!
THE YOUNG MAN IS UNSCHOOLED IN THE MYSTIC ARTS, YET HE NEARLY CALLED FORTH THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO FROM MY AMULET!
THIS IS ALL PRETTY WEIRD, DOC! I DON'T KNOW IF--!
NOK
NOK
NOK
NOK
'SCUSE ME A MINUTE, WILL YA? I'VE BEEN WAITING ALL DAY FOR THIS!
HERE YOU GO, ARNIE! ONE HOT-AND-GOOEY EGGPLANT PIZZA!
WITH EXTRA CHEESE?
WITH EXTRA CHEESE!
8

HOW IS THAT STUFF ON PIZZA?
EGGPLANT? GREAT! WANNA COME IN AND HAVE A...
WHOOPS! FORGOT ABOUT DOC!
SOMETHING WRONG?
SHE CAN'T SEE OR HEAR ME, ARNIE! I'VE TAKEN CARE OF THAT!
FAR OUT!
NOPE, EVERYTHING'S FINE. JUST THOUGHT I HEARD THE TEA-POT WHISTLING!
OH, WELL. I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT THE PRICE OF CHEESE WENT UP. YOU OWE ME AN EXTRA 74¢!
74, HUH? OKAY, LEMME SEE...
HOW'S THIS?
74¢... RIGHT ON THE NOSE?
I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW YOU ALWAYS MANAGE TO HAVE THE EXACT CHANGE!
JUST LUCKY, I GUESS.
WELL, I GOTTA RUN!
OKAY! SEE YA!
I'M SORRY IF MY PRESENCE MADE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE, ARNIE.
AW, THAT'S OKAY. THOSE TRICKS OF YOURS ARE STARTING TO BE FUN, YA KNOW? IT'S LIKE BEING IN AN OLD RERUN OF "MY FAVORITE MARTIAN" OR SOMETHING!


PARDON MY CURIOSITY, BUT... YOU ALWAYS HAVE THE CORRECT CHANGE?
YEAH, ALWAYS! MUST'VE BEEN BORN UNDER A LUCKY STAR, HUH?
PIZZA?
THANK YOU, NO. HAVE YOU NOTICED ANY OTHER UNUSUAL LUCK?
WELL, NOT UNUSUAL FOR ME, BUT I'VE NEVER HAD TO WAIT IN LINE... FOR MOVIES OR RESTAURANTS OR STUFF. MY FRIENDS ALWAYS ACT SURPRISED, BUT I JUST SORT OF EXPECT IT, YA KNOW?
ASTOUNDING! YET, EVEN WITH ALL I'VE SEEN, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT ARNIE IS THE NEW INCARNATION OF A HOLY MAN! HE HARDLY SEEMS SERIOUS ENOUGH!
OF COURSE, HE IS TAKING MY MAGIC IN STRIDE! STILL...
...THERE MIGHT BE OTHER EXPLANATIONS FOR HIS ABILITY TO SEE THROUGH MY ILLUSIONS. HIS LUCKY STREAK COULD BE CAUSED BY LATENT MYSTIC ABILITIES, BUT IT MIGHT ALSO BE COINCIDENCE.
HUH? WHAT'S THIS?
A FREE PIZZA? ALL RIGHT!
ONE
ONE FREE
SOMETIME LATER, THE THREE SEEKERS ARRIVE AT THE HUMBLE DWELLING OF ARNIE GREEN...
...AS YET UNAWARE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED.
THIS IS WHERE WE GAIN ENTRANCE?
SO SAID WONG.
NOK
NOK
10

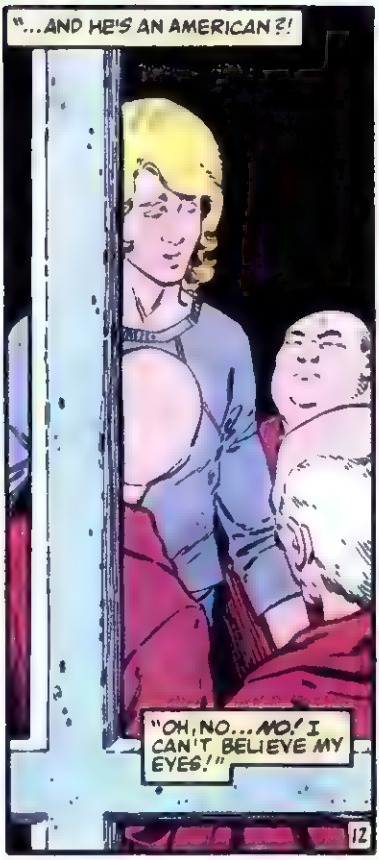

OUR PARDON. WE WERE LOOKING FOR DOCTOR STRANGE.
DOC? SURE, C'MON IN!
WELCOME, MOST HONORED FATHERS! MY SEARCH HAS YIELDED MOST INTERESTING RESULTS!
WONG SAID YOU HAVE LOCATED THE CHOSEN ONE! WHERE IS HE?
HE OPENED THE DOOR FOR YOU. HERE HE IS KNOW AS ARNIE GREEN!
"CHOSEN ONE"?
LOOK, LOSANG, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, BUT--!
WHAT DID YOU CALL ME?
LOSANG! THAT'S ...YOUR NAME!
BUT WE HAVE NEVER MET! HOW DID YOU KNOW?
GEE ...I DUNNO.
WEIRD.
THIS IS BLASPHEMY! STRANGE MUST HAVE COACHED HIM!
IT IS CLEARLY TIME FOR THE TESTING, BROTHERS!
HEY, I GOTTA WARN YOU GUYS...APTITUDE TESTS AREN'T MY STRONG SUIT!
THIS ONE IS NOT HARD.
WE MERELY WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF THESE COINS.
COINS, HUH? I'LL TELL YOU... I DON'T KNOW COINS THAT WELL. WHEN I WAS A KID, I MOSTLY COLLECTED BASEBALL CARDS.
FUNNY THING, THOUGH...
...I COULD ALMOST SWEAR I HAD SOME COINS LIKE THESE ONCE. YEAH, I DID! THESE THREE USED TO BE MINE! HOW'D YOU GUYS GET 'EM?


ONLY THE CHOSEN ONE COULD HAVE PICKED THE TRUE PERSONAL EFFECTS OF HIS PAST LIFE FROM THE REST! IT IS HE.
OUR LAMA HAS REINCARNATED AS A WESTERNER? IT IS UNHEARD OF!
IT IS UNBELIEVABLE! WE SPENT 25 YEARS COMBING THE FAR REACHES OF THE WORLD, BRAVING THE TORMENTS OF THE ELEMENTS AND ENEMY ASSASSINS TO FIND THIS--?

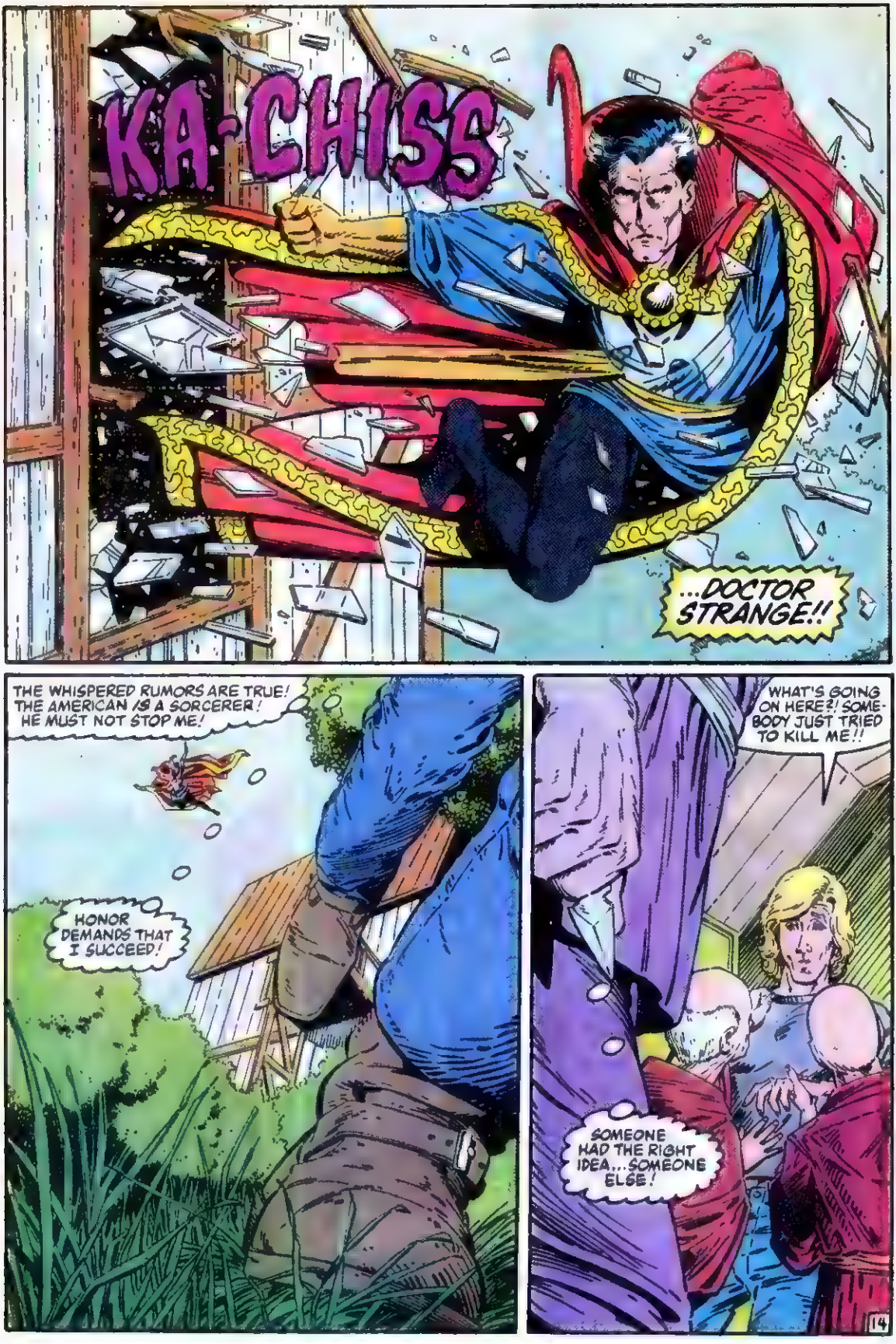

'ROUND AND 'ROUND THEY GO!
BOY, THESE LITTLE BEAUTIES HAVE GREAT BALANCE... THEY MAKE JUGGLING A CINCH!

BUT THE THREE PRIESTS ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO LOOK ON IN AMAZEMENT. FOR LESS THAN FIFTY FEET AWAY, JUST OUTSIDE THE WINDOW OF ARNIE'S MODEST DWELLING...

...CONCEALED IN HIGH COVER...
FROM THEIR STATE OF AGITATION, IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE HOLY PILGRIMS HAVE FOUND THE LAMA...


"...AND HE'S AN AMERICAN?!
"OH, NO... NO! I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES!"

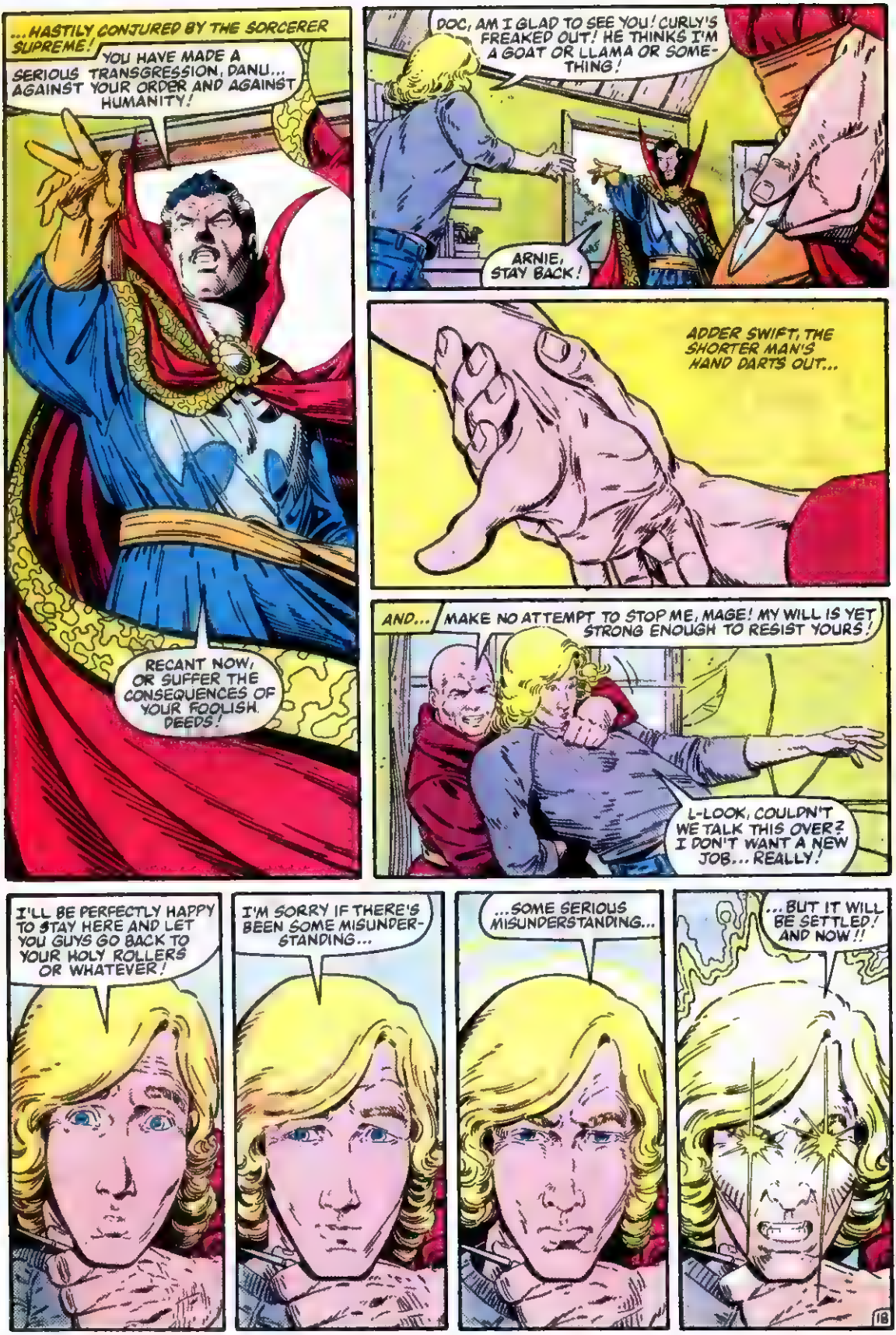
MY DUTY IS CLEAR. MAY I FIND THE STRENGTH TO DO NOW WHAT I MUST!
KEESH
GET DOWN, ALL OF YOU!
THE ARROW FLIES TRUE TO ITS TARGET. BUT...
KSSS-
THUNK
SAVE THE CHOSEN ONE!
WHAT THE--?
ASSASSINS!
ARNIE CONTINUES TO LEAD A CHARMED LIFE! THE WOULD-BE ASSASSIN WAS FOOLED BY A MIRROR-IMAGE!
STAY AWAY FROM THE WINDOW! THIS DEALER OF DEATH WILL ANSWER TO...
13


KA-CHISS
...DOCTOR STRANGE!!
THE WHISPERED RUMORS ARE TRUE! THE AMERICAN IS A SORCERER! HE MUST NOT STOP ME!
HONOR DEMANDS THAT I SUCCEED!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?! SOMEBODY JUST TRIED TO KILL ME!!
SOMEONE HAD THE RIGHT IDEA...SOMEONE ELSE!
14

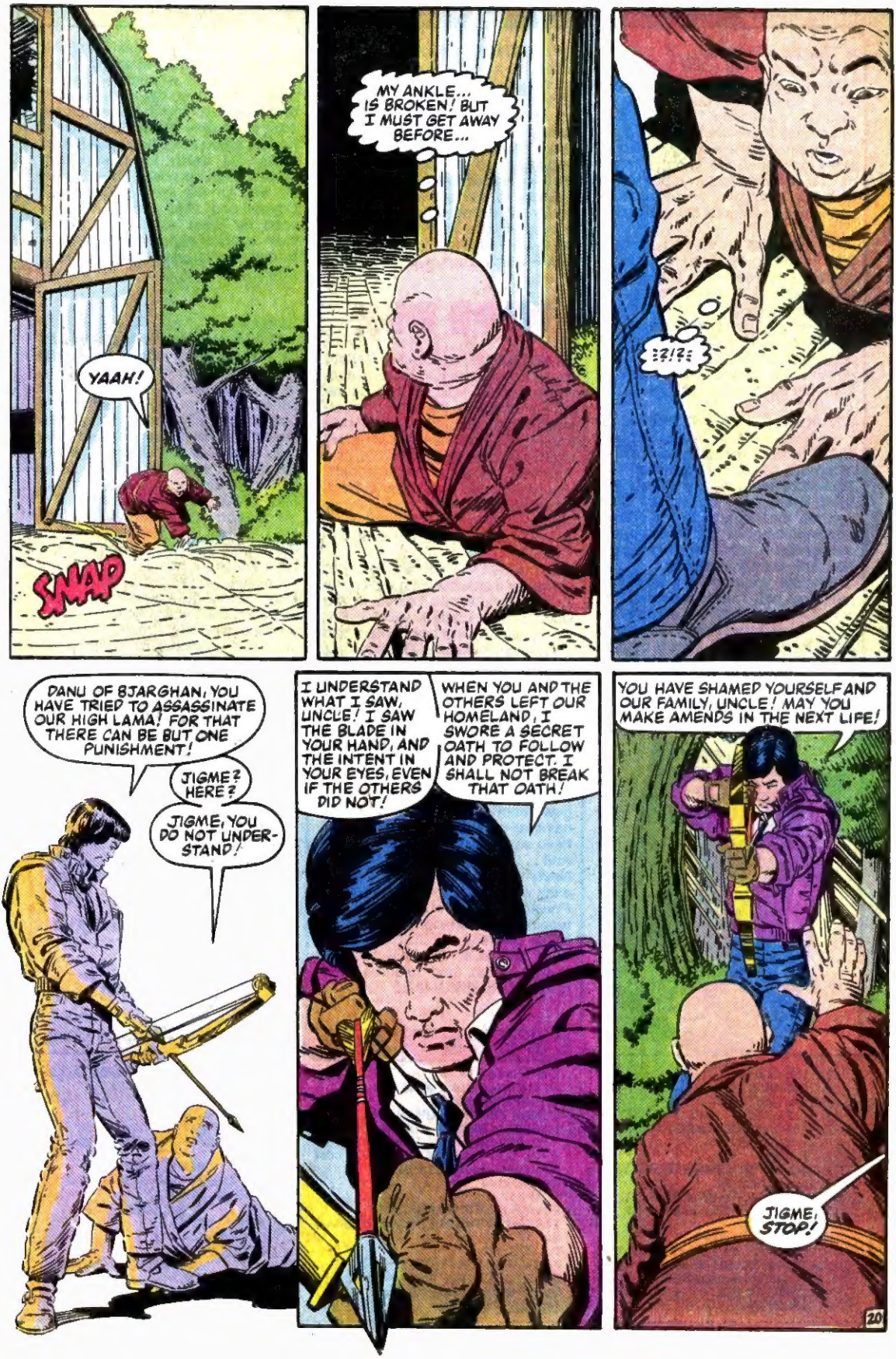
WHILE IN THE WOODED THICKETS OF THE COUNTRY CLUB GROUNDS...
I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF WESTERN ATTIRE JUST BEFORE HE DISAPPEARED INTO THIS GROVE. BUT BY THE EASE WITH WHICH HE VANISHED--
--IT IS OBVIOUS THAT MY QUARRY KNOWS THE WAYS OF THE EAST. I MUST FIND HIM QUICKLY. HE IS A DANGER TO EVERYONE HERE.
NEAR... HE IS VERY NEAR. I CAN FEEL HIS PRESENCE!
HE WILL FIND ME IN SECONDS! I AM LOST UNLESS...
...I MUST STRIKE FIRST!
SO! WE HAVE FOUND EACH OTHER!
YOU ATTEMPT TO SLAY IN SILENCE, ASSASSIN...
15

... BUT SILENCE SHALL BE DENIED YOU!
EVEN AS THE SORCERER SHOOTS SKYWARD, HIS AMULET RELEASES HIS GREATEST WEAPON... THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO...
NO ONE CAN RESIST THE ALL-SEEING EYE!
SPEAK! WHO SENT YOU TO KILL THE LAMA?
NO ONE SENT ME. ON MY OWN, I FOLLOWED THE HOLY THREE... TO PROTECT THEM AND THE ONE THEY SOUGHT, FROM THE ENEMIES OF THE HIGH ORDER!
I DID NOT TRY TO KILL THE LAMA. MY ARROW WAS MEANT FOR ONE WHO WOULD DO HIM HARM. FROM MY VANTAGE IN THE TREE, I SAW...

"...THAT ONE OF THE HOLY THREE MADE READY TO BETRAY HIS MASTER!"
HEY, HOLD IT JUST A MINUTE, CURLY! THIS IS STARTING TO GET OUT OF HAND, YA KNOW?
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
I MAKE READY TO CORRECT A MISTAKE.
OUR ORDER HAS FLOURISHED FOR MILLENIA. I WILL NOT SEE IT DESTROYED BY A SINGLE ERROR OF REINCARNATION! MY BROTHERS MIGHT NOT SEE THINGS AS I DO... BUT MY NERVE PINCHES PUT THEM PEACEFULLY TO SLEEP!
THERE IS NO SUCH PAINLESS SOLUTION FOR YOU, YOU HAVE HOUSED THE SPIRIT OF OUR HIGH LAMA WITHIN YOU ALL YOUR LIFE... EXPOSING IT TO THE DECADENCE OF THE MATERIAL WORLD!
YOUR BODY MUST DIE; THAT THE LAMA MAY BE BORN AGAIN, PURGING THIS HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE FROM HIS KARMA.
I REGRET THE NECESSITY OF THIS, BUT...
NUU--?!?
WHOOSH
BEFORE THE BLADE-WIELDING HOLY MAN CAN TAKE ANOTHER STEP, THE APARTMENT DOOR IS SUDDENLY BLOWN OFF ITS HINGES BY MYSTIC WINDS OF WATOOMB...


...HASTILY CONJURED BY THE SORCERER SUPREME!
YOU HAVE MADE A SERIOUS TRANSGRESSION, DANU... AGAINST YOUR ORDER AND AGAINST HUMANITY!
RECANT NOW, OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR FOOLISH DEEDS!
DOC, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU! CURLY'S FREAKED OUT! HE THINKS I'M A GOAT OR LLAMA OR SOMETHING!
ARNIE, STAY BACK!
ADDER SWIFT, THE SHORTER MAN'S HAND DARTS OUT...
AND...
MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO STOP ME, MAGE! MY WILL IS YET STRONG ENOUGH TO RESIST YOURS!
L-LOOK, COULDN'T WE TALK THIS OVER? I DON'T WANT A NEW JOB... REALLY!
I'LL BE PERFECTLY HAPPY TO STAY HERE AND LET YOU GUYS GO BACK TO YOUR HOLY ROLLERS OR WHATEVER!
I'M SORRY IF THERE'S BEEN SOME MISUNDERSTANDING...
...SOME SERIOUS MISUNDERSTANDING...
...BUT IT WILL BE SETTLED! AND NOW!!
18

AWAY FROM ME, DANU! IT IS YOU WHO ARE IN ERROR!
BY THE VISHANTI, THE LAMA'S CONSCIOUSNESS HAS AWAKENED! HE HURLED DANU FROM HIM WITH A SINGLE MANIFESTATION OF HIS PSYCHIC AURA!
NO! NO, YOUR POWER... YOUR WISDOM... HAS BEEN CORRUPTED AFTER ALL THESE YEARS IN THE WEST!
YOU WILL THANK ME FOR THIS, CHOSEN ONE...
...IN YOUR NEXT LIFE!
OH!
HHVIP
NO NEED TO FEAR, CHOSEN ONE. THE REACH OF MY CLOAK IS LONG... AND IT ACTS WITH THE SPEED OF THOUGHT!
B-BUT WHAT OF DANU?
19


YAAH!
SNAP
MY ANKLE... IS BROKEN! BUT I MUST GET AWAY BEFORE...
:?!?:
DANU OF BJARGHAN, YOU HAVE TRIED TO ASSASSINATE OUR HIGH LAMA! FOR THAT THERE CAN BE BUT ONE PUNISHMENT!
JIGME? HERE?
JIGME, YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND!
I UNDERSTAND WHAT I SAW, UNCLE! I SAW THE BLADE IN YOUR HAND, AND THE INTENT IN YOUR EYES, EVEN IF THE OTHERS DID NOT!
WHEN YOU AND THE OTHERS LEFT OUR HOMELAND, I SWORE A SECRET OATH TO FOLLOW AND PROTECT. I SHALL NOT BREAK THAT OATH!
YOU HAVE SHAMED YOURSELF AND OUR FAMILY, UNCLE! MAY YOU MAKE AMENDS IN THE NEXT LIFE!
JIGME, STOP!
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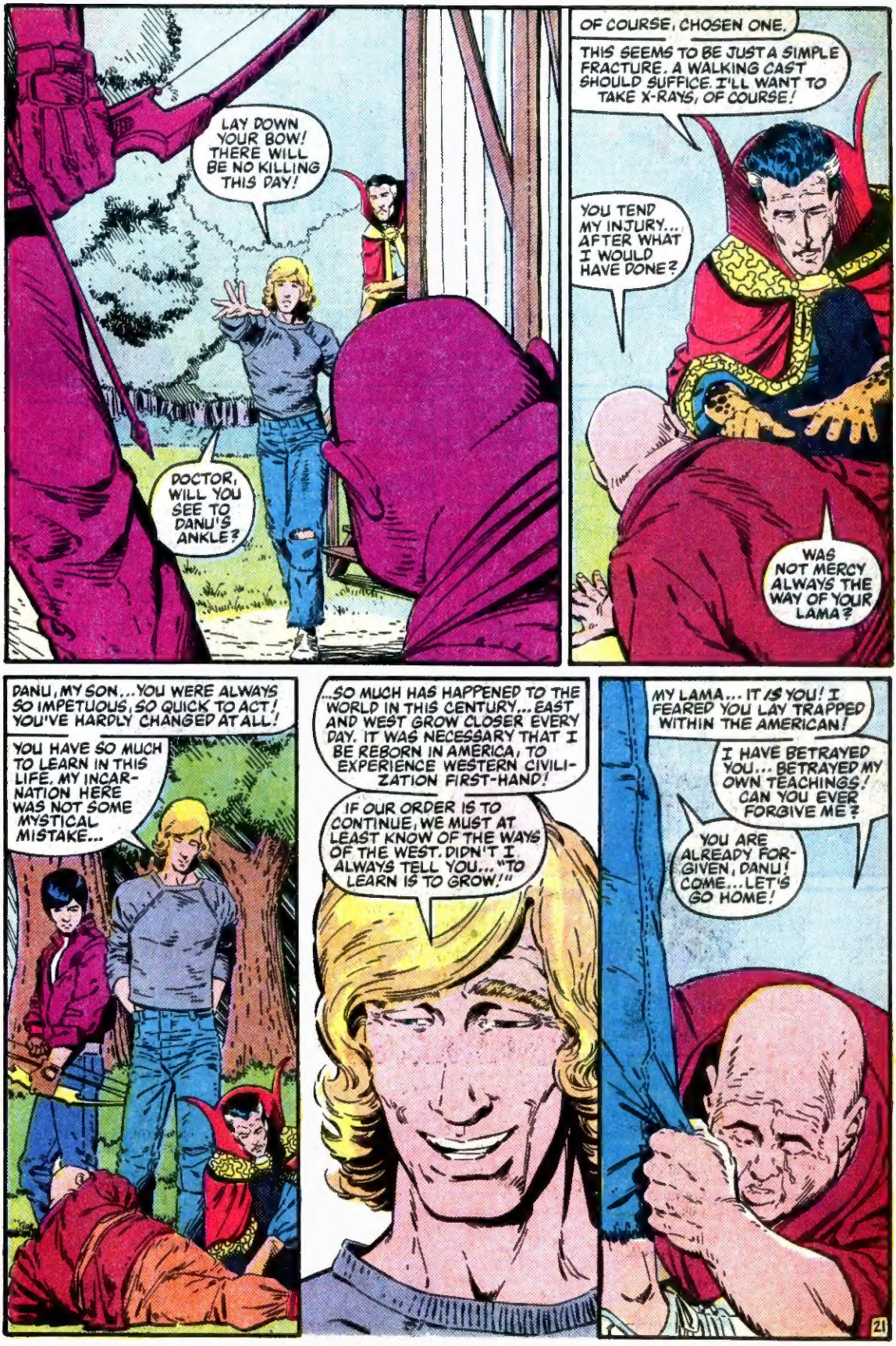
LAY DOWN YOUR BOW! THERE WILL BE NO KILLING THIS DAY!
DOCTOR, WILL YOU SEE TO DANU'S ANKLE?
OF COURSE, CHOSEN ONE.
THIS SEEMS TO BE JUST A SIMPLE FRACTURE. A WALKING CAST SHOULD SUFFICE. I'LL WANT TO TAKE X-RAYS, OF COURSE!
YOU TEND MY INJURY... AFTER WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE?
WAS NOT MERCY ALWAYS THE WAY OF YOUR LAMA?
DANU, MY SON... YOU WERE ALWAYS SO IMPETUOUS, SO QUICK TO ACT! YOU'VE HARDLY CHANGED AT ALL!
YOU HAVE SO MUCH TO LEARN IN THIS LIFE. MY INCARNATION HERE WAS NOT SOME MYSTICAL MISTAKE...
...SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED TO THE WORLD IN THIS CENTURY... EAST AND WEST GROW CLOSER EVERY DAY. IT WAS NECESSARY THAT I BE REBORN IN AMERICA, TO EXPERIENCE WESTERN CIVILIZATION FIRST-HAND!
IF OUR ORDER IS TO CONTINUE, WE MUST AT LEAST KNOW OF THE WAYS OF THE WEST. DIDN'T I ALWAYS TELL YOU... "TO LEARN IS TO GROW!"
MY LAMA... IT *IS* YOU! I FEARED YOU LAY TRAPPED WITHIN THE AMERICAN!
I HAVE BETRAYED YOU... BETRAYED MY OWN TEACHINGS! CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME?
YOU ARE ALREADY FORGIVEN, DANU! COME... LET'S GO HOME!
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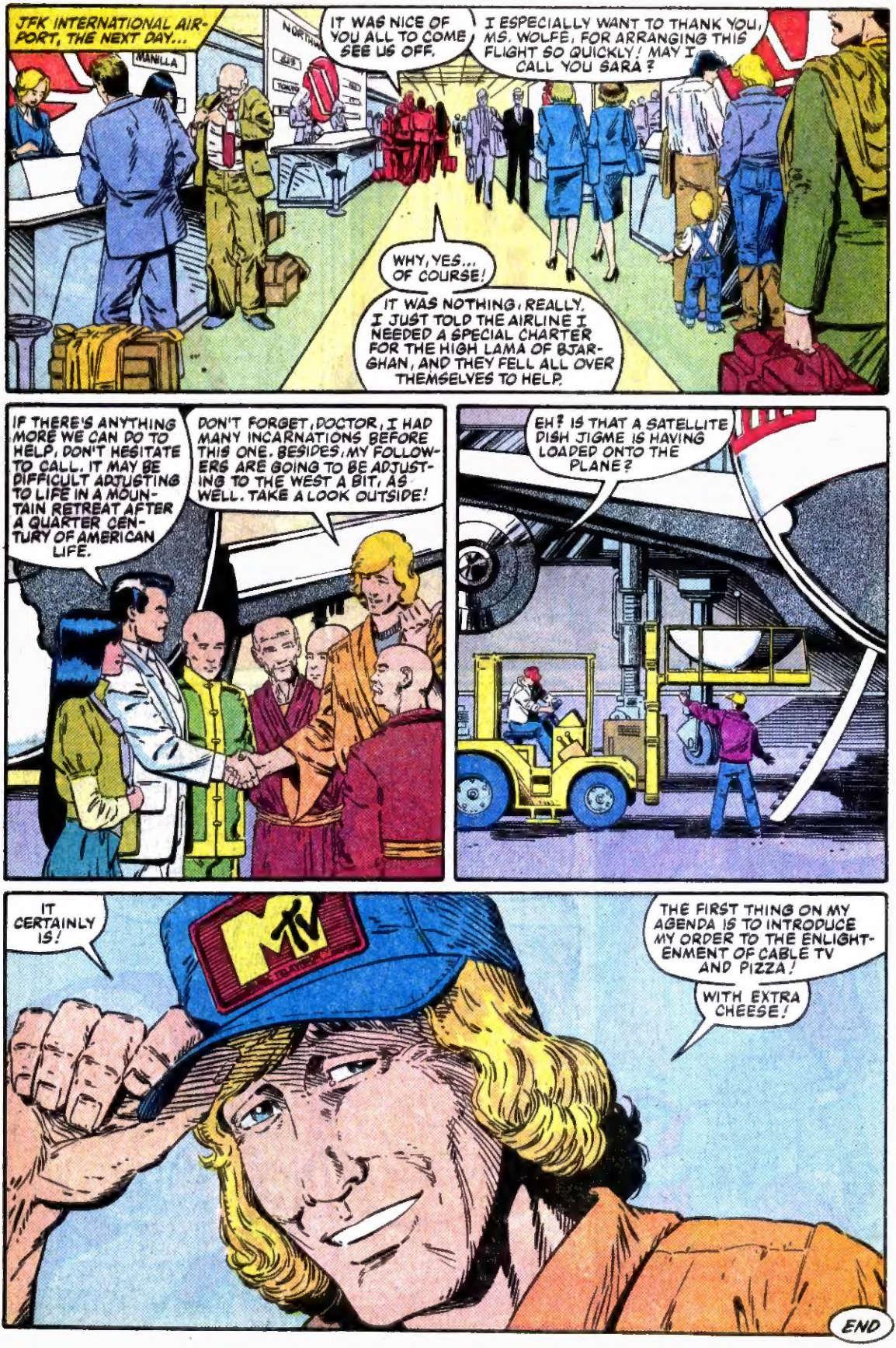
JFK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, THE NEXT DAY...
MANILA
IT WAS NICE OF YOU ALL TO COME SEE US OFF.
I ESPECIALLY WANT TO THANK YOU, MS. WOLFE, FOR ARRANGING THIS FLIGHT SO QUICKLY! MAY I CALL YOU SARA?
WHY, YES... OF COURSE!
IT WAS NOTHING, REALLY. I JUST TOLD THE AIRLINE I NEEDED A SPECIAL CHARTER FOR THE HIGH LAMA OF BJARGHAN, AND THEY FELL ALL OVER THEMSELVES TO HELP.
IF THERE'S ANYTHING MORE WE CAN DO TO HELP, DON'T HESITATE TO CALL. IT MAY BE DIFFICULT ADJUSTING TO LIFE IN A MOUNTAIN RETREAT AFTER A QUARTER CENTURY OF AMERICAN LIFE.
DON'T FORGET, DOCTOR, I HAD MANY INCARNATIONS BEFORE THIS ONE. BESIDES, MY FOLLOWERS ARE GOING TO BE ADJUSTING TO THE WEST A BIT, AS WELL. TAKE A LOOK OUTSIDE!
EH? IS THAT A SATELLITE DISH JIGME IS HAVING LOADED ONTO THE PLANE?
IT CERTAINLY IS!
THE FIRST THING ON MY AGENDA IS TO INTRODUCE MY ORDER TO THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF CABLE TV AND PIZZA!
WITH EXTRA CHEESE!
MTV
END